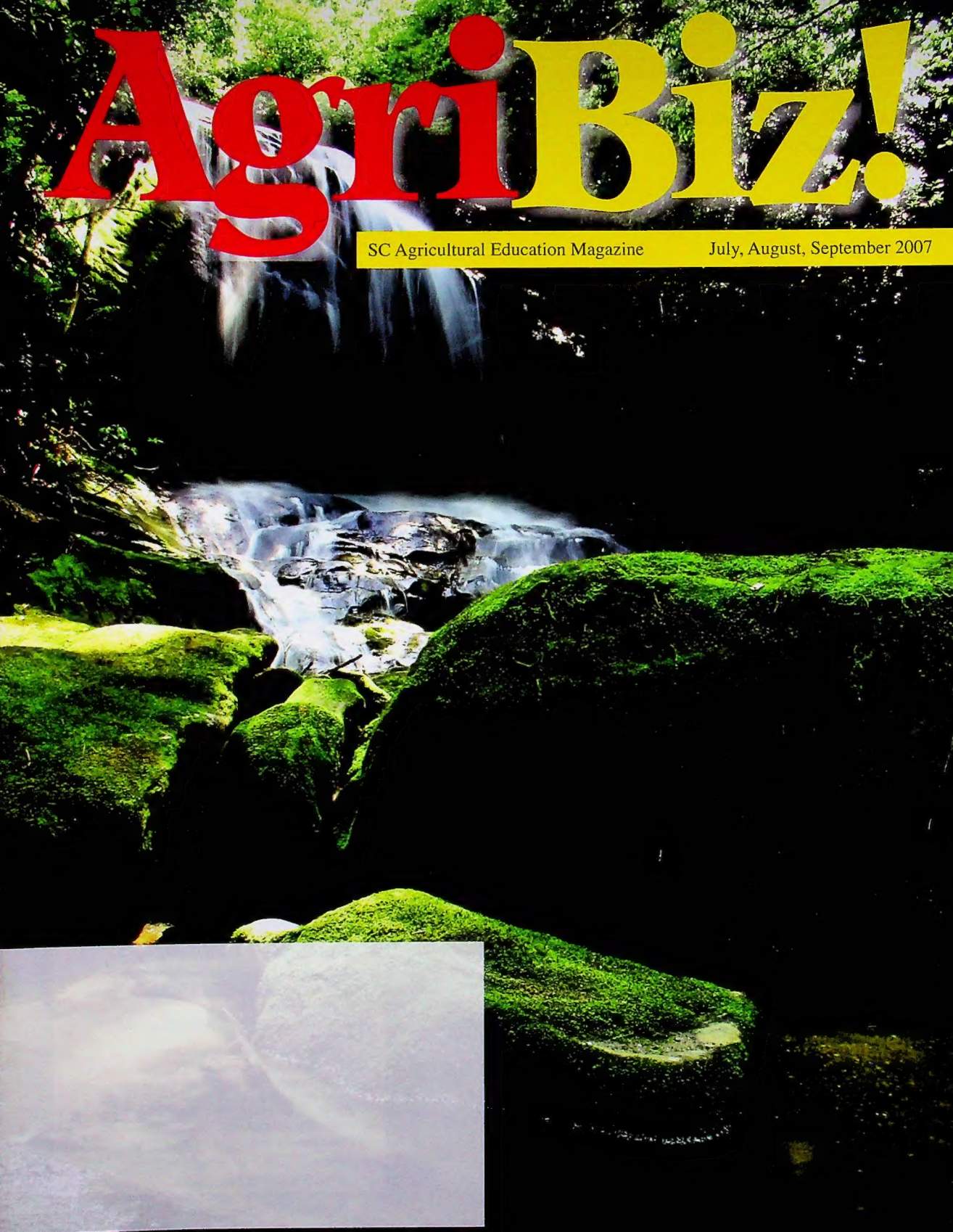


AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

July, August, September 2007



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John W. Parris
State Director,
Office of Public Affairs
Editor

AgriBiz!

July, August, September 2007

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State FFA Officers Meet With President Bush



President **George W. Bush** joins the National FFA Officers and State FFA Officers for a photo in the East Room of the White House. (White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)

State FFA President **Spencer McLeod** of McBee and State Secretary **Hunter Cooper** of Calhoun Falls met with President George Bush on Thursday, July 26, 2007. The National FFA Officer team and state FFA presidents and secretaries from throughout the nation attended the 45 minute session at the White House.

McLeod and Cooper also met with US Secretary of Agriculture and FFA Alumnus **Mike Johanns**; US Secretary of Education **Margaret Spellings**, US Congressman and FFA Alumnus **Gresham Barrett** of Westminster, SC; US Congressman **Joe Wilson** of Springdale, SC; and **Ashli Scott**, a staff member of Congressman **John Spratt** of Rock Hill, SC, while in Washington.

The State FFA officers from South Carolina were in Washington, DC, to participate in a National Leadership Conference, July 24-28.



State FFA Secretary **Hunter Cooper** (left) with US Congressman **Gresham Barrett** and State FFA President **Spencer McLeod**.



SC FFA Group Participates In Washington Leadership Conference

SC FFA members and advisors who attended the Washington Leadership Conference July 23-29, 2007, were: (kneeling from left) **Kristy Durham**, **Jane Snead** and **Anna-Kate Waters**. (Front row from left) **Joan Alexander**, **Desiree Kinneer**, **Katie Simpson**, **Wes Canley**, **Paige Dixon**, **Alan Felder**, **Emilee Barnes**, **Amber Boyd**, **Rose McCollum**, **Heather Coleman**, **Carolyn Turbeville**, **Jacob Corshey** and **Bryon Glace**. (Second row from left) **Steve McCannon**, **Caleb Keaton**, **Carla Parker**, **Blake Mixon**, **Brittany Howard**, **Tripp Gant**, **Justin Daff**, **Sean McDowell**, **Phillip Carnley** and **Joe Wilson**. Not pictured are Advisors **Barry Hawkins** and **Allen Williams**. (photo provided)



State FFA Secretary **Hunter Cooper** (left), and State FFA President **Spencer McLeod** at the Nation's Capitol in Washington, DC.

State FFA Officers Participate in Peach Festival

State FFA President Spencer McLeod and State Secretary Hunter Cooper participated in the 49th Lexington County Peach Festival and Parade on July 4th which was attended by thousands from throughout the southeast.

In addition to riding in the 125 unit parade, Spencer and Hunter also attended the Dignitaries Luncheon with other agricultural, educational and governmental leaders. Spencer addressed the luncheon program and presented a box of Mac's Pride peaches from his family farm in McBee to Congressman Joe Wilson, Mayor Randy Clamp and former state FFA president Al Harman, a festival official.

Gilbert FFA Chapter officers and members rode on their prize winning float. The Gilbert State Champion FFA Forestry team also rode in the parade.

South Carolina, one of the leading peach producing states in the nation, is second only to California followed by Georgia which ranks third.



Spencer McLeod (left) and Hunter Cooper wave the American flag as they pass by the thousands in attendance at the parade. Steve Miller drove the truck in the parade.



Spencer McLeod (left) presents a box of peaches to Congressman Joe Wilson as Hunter Cooper looks on.



Gilbert FFA President Kristin Miller (center) and a host of other FFA members ride on the prize winning chapter float

Cooper Attends SC Apple Festival Event



Hunter Cooper, State FFA Secretary of Calhoun Falls, attended the 46th annual SC Apple Festival Kick-Off Luncheon in Westminster on Friday, September 7.

Hunter had an opportunity to meet State Senator Thomas Alexander who is an FFA alumnus, State Representative William E. Sandifer, III; State Representative William R. Whitmire; former State Representative Cecil Sandifer, a founding member of the festival; and a number of other officials.

The festival marks the beginning of the apple harvest in Oconee County, the largest apple-producing area in the state.

AGRI-BIZ Read In Afghanistan



Carolina Forest FFA Alumnus SPC Charles Kessler of Myrtle Beach is shown here reading a copy of South Carolina's Agricultural Education magazine, AGRI-BIZ. He is currently stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan. Harry DuBose, Agricultural Education Instructor at Carolina Forest High School, was his FFA advisor.

Earle Is National Finalist As Outstanding Rural Educator

W. Pat Earle, Agricultural Education Instructor at McBee High School, has been named one of six national finalist in the Rural Educator Recognition Program for 2007.

A graduate of Wingate College with an Associate Science Degree in Agriculture, Earle earned a BS Degree in Agricultural Education and an MS Degree in Animal Science at Clemson University. He began his teaching career in 1980 as an Agronomy Instructor at the Florence-Darlington Technical College where he served as head of the department from 1983-1987.

Earle was named the Agricultural Education Instructor at McBee High School in 1987 following his father, E.B. Earle, who had held that position for 41 years.

Recognized as one of the nation's outstanding Agricultural Education Instructors, Pat Earle has established an enviable record of accomplishments as advisor of the McBee FFA Chapter. He has been recognized as the Outstanding Agricultural Educator in South Carolina and the Outstanding Young Agricultural Educator in the southern states. A recipient of the prestigious Honorary American FFA Degree, Mr. Earle has served as chairman of the SC FFA Association Board of Directors and president of the SC Agricultural Educators Association.



McBee FFA Members and Advisor Honored



State Commissioner of Agriculture **Hugh Weathers** (left) with **Spencer McLeod** and **Pat Earle**.



Pat Earle (left) is congratulated by **Dr. John R. Williams**, Superintendent of Chesterfield County Schools, for his outstanding accomplishments as an Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA Advisor.

State Representative **Jay Lucas** (left), **Spencer McLeod** and **Pat Earle**.



Agricultural, educational and governmental leaders from throughout South Carolina gathered at Osborne's in Florence on Thursday, August 16th for a Recognition Program and Reception in honor of McBee High School FFA members and Advisor Pat Earle.

The event sponsored by **ArborOne Financial** in Florence, was designed to recognize McBee FFA members and their advisor for a record number of state and national awards received during the 2006-07 school year.

In his remarks, **Spencer McLeod** said, "the most exciting thing about being a member of the McBee FFA Chapter is that we are challenged to reach 'beyond the stars' in our quest to learn about agriculture while developing leadership skills that will last for a lifetime."

The program was planned and coordinated by **John W. Parris**, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association, and **Don Boice**, Vice President of **ArborOne Financial**.



McBee FFA Advisor **Pat Earle** (left) with FFA members and **ArborOne Vice President Don Boice** (right) under the "Congratulations" banner at the entrance to Osborne's.

Rider Receives Honorary American FFA Degree

Elaine Ellison-Rider of Honea Path, SC, co-publisher and editor of *THE NEWS CHRONICLE*, was awarded the Honorary American FFA Degree at a ceremony held in Belton in July.

The Honorary American FFA Degree is the highest award presented to a select number of friends and supporters of the 500,000 member National FFA Organization.

Mrs. Rider was presented the prestigious award by State FFA Vice Presidents William Nelson and Brittany Mixson along with Belton-Honea Path FFA Vice President Carla Parker and FFA Advisor Glenn Stevens on behalf of the National FFA Organization.

Mrs. Rider was recognized for her outstanding and continuous promotion of the FFA and Agricultural Education. She regularly features success stories about local FFA activities and highlights state and national events including the FFA-sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Day, FFA Plant Presentation Day at the State Capitol, the State FFA Convention, the National FFA Convention and National FFA Week.

A graduate of Anderson University and the University of South Carolina with degrees in Journalism, Mrs. Rider is an active member of the SC Press Association and has received more than 30 awards in recognition of community news features including articles about the FFA and Agricultural Education. She is also a recipient of the Honorary State FFA Degree which was presented by the SC FFA Association.



Pictured are from left to right: Glenn Stevens, William Nelson, Mrs. Elaine Ellison-Rider, Brittany Mixson, and Carla Parker

Agricultural Educator Joe Wilson Retires

Joe Wilson, one of the nation's premier Agricultural Educators, retired in July after 33 years at Aiken High School. Mr. Wilson has been recognized as the Outstanding Agricultural Educator in the Southern States and one of the top six in America by the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

The Aiken High School Adult Agricultural Education Program was recognized twice as the most outstanding in the Southern States and one of the six in the nation under Mr. Wilson's leadership. In fact, Mr. Wilson will be presented a new Toyota truck at the National Agricultural Educators Conference in December in recognition of his successful leadership as an adult agricultural educator.

Mr. Wilson, a recipient of the prestigious Honorary American FFA Degree, has many former students in important leadership positions in agriculture, natural resource conservation and other related careers. He has coached numerous state FFA officers from the Aiken Chapter over the years. The chapter has been awarded the Governor's Citation of Excellence consistently and recognized many times as a Three-Star FFA Chapter by the National FFA Organization. Over the years, he has inspired a number of students to receive the coveted State and American FFA Degree.

In his remarks at Mr. Wilson's Retirement Banquet, John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association, said, "Joe always expected the best from his students and that expectation, underscored by enthusiastic encouragement, motivated them to 'reach for the stars' in their quest for excellence in agricultural education.

Pictured above right: **Joe and Marie Wilson** Pictured right: **Joe Wilson** (second from right) with Agricultural Educators **Glenn Stevens** (left), **Belton-Honea Path High School**; **Clark Woods**, **Hillcrest High School**; and **Tommy Harmon**, **Lexington Technology Center**.



SC Agricultural Educators Elect Officers

Harry DuBose, a member of the faculty at Carolina Forest High School at Myrtle Beach, was elected president of the SC Association of Agricultural Educators at the annual conference held at Clemson University in July.

A former president of the SC FFA Association, Mr. DuBose graduated from Socastee High School where he was a member of the state champion FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team and the state FFA Public Speaking winner.

Mr. DuBose graduated from Clemson University with Honors in Agricultural Education. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Tau Alpha, Alpha Gamma Rho and Gamma Sigma Delta. He also accepted a commission in the US Army Reserves.

Upon completion of the requirements for the MS Degree in Horticulture Science at Clemson University, Mr. DuBose taught Horticulture at Catawba Valley Community College. He also served as Chair of the Environmental and Life Sciences Division and Director of Continuing Education at the college.

Simultaneously, Mr. DuBose served in the NC Army National Guard as a company commander and assistant battalion training officer. He was ordered into active duty a number of times and traveled in a number of foreign countries. He served as assistant professor of Military Science and Adjutant at NC State University where he completed the course work for a PhD Degree in Horticulture Science.

In 1995, Mr. DuBose was selected as one of eight US representatives to teach agricultural education in Russia. He has recently retired from the US Army National Guard as a full Colonel.

Other officers elected to serve the SC Agricultural Education organization for 2007-08 are: **Allen Williams**, President-elect; Wagener-Salley High School; **Barry Hawkins**, Secretary-Treasurer, Edisto High School; **Roger Estridge**, Past President from Crescent High School; Regional Vice Presidents: **Mark Earle**, Hillcrest High School; **Amanda Nichols**, Saluda High School; **Stacey Bazen**, Aynor High School; and **Thomas Dawkins**, Estill High School; Regional Associate Vice Presidents **Calvert Sherard**, Calhoun Falls High School; **Libby Hrlie**, Batesburg-Leesville High School; **Jillian Shupenis**, Lakewood High School, Sumter; and **Mindy Sandifer**, Barnwell Career Center.



Harry DuBose



Allen Williams



Barry Hawkins



Roger Estridge



Mark Earle



Amanda Nichols



Stacey Bazen



Thomas Dawkins



Calvert Sherard



Libby Hrlie



Jillian Shupenis



Mindy Sandifer

SC Agricultural Educators Hold Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of South Carolina Agricultural Educators sponsored by Clemson University's Agricultural Education Program in cooperation with the SC Agricultural Educators Association was held at Clemson University July 17-19, on the Clemson University campus.

Dr. Alan Sams, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences, welcomed the Agricultural Educators to Clemson University. Other speakers included **Dr. Jerome Reel**, Professor and Clemson University Historian and State Senator **Daniel B. Verdin, III** of Laurens, chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

A number of Agricultural Educators were recognized during the conference. **Gayle Posipanko**, Horticulture Instructor at the Rock Hill Technology Center, was named the Outstanding Agricultural Educator in South Carolina. **Jeremy Brooks**, Agricultural Education Instructor at Midland Valley High School, was named the Outstanding Young Agricultural Educator. **Fred Raines**, Agricultural Education Instructor at Abbeville High School, was recognized for having the Outstanding Program in the state. Retiring Agricultural Educator **Joe Wilson** at Aiken High School was honored for having the Outstanding Adult Agricultural Education Program in South Carolina. **Barry Hawkins**, Agricultural Education Instructor at Edisto High School, was named recipient of the Mentor Award.

Greenville resident and retired Agricultural Education Instructor **Jack Black** was presented the John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award for his continued support and promotion of Agricultural Education and the FFA.

Dr. Phil M. Fravel, a faculty member in the Clemson University Agricultural Education Program, was the coordinator of the conference.



Jack Black



Gayle Posipanko



Fred Raines



Barry Hawkins



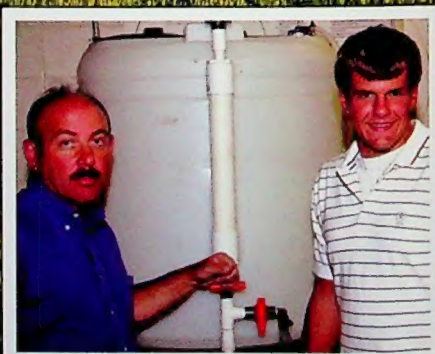
Jeremy Brooks



Joe Wilson



Blake Berry, a Clemson University Agricultural Education Graduate student and former State FFA President, led a number of Agricultural Educators on a tour of the School Garden Demonstration Project.



Dr. Phil Fravel (left) welcomes **Flint Holbrook**, a junior and FFA officer at Clover High School, to the SC Agricultural Educators Conference at Clemson University where he addressed the teachers and demonstrated the production of biodiesel fuel in a technical workshop.



Dr. Jerome Reel (left) with **Harry DuBose**



Dr. Phil M. Fravel (left) with Dr. Alan Sams, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson; and Hugh Bland, Agricultural Education Instructor at Strom Thurmond Technology Center.



State Senator Daniel B. Verdin, III (left) and Pat Earle, Agricultural Education Instructor at McBee High School.

Sandifer and Nichols Attend Energy Educators Institute

Agricultural Educators Mindy Sandifer of Blackville and Amanda Nichols of Saluda were among 79 teachers and school administrators selected to participate in the Santee Cooper Energy Educators Institute held at the Wampee Conference Center in Pinopolis, SC, this summer.

Participants in the institute learned about the challenges and new technology affecting the electric industry, received teaching materials and earned graduate credit.

Santee Cooper employees shared their expertise by addressing such topics as power generation, transmission, distribution, electrical safety, water quality, utility economics, energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy and environmental resources.

The educators toured Santee Cooper's Jefferies Generating Station in Moncks Corner, took part in hands-on learning activities and field trips to the Old Santee Canal Park and ALCOA aluminum plant in Goose Creek.



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Awards Presentation and Auction.....2:00 PM

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For additional information contact
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Chester Hosts SC Young Farmer-Agribusiness Tour

The Chester County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter hosted the annual educational tour for members and guests of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, July 20-21.

Kip Beam, Agricultural Education Instructor at the Chester County Career Center, coordinated the event and **Lee Petitgout**, an officer in the chapter, chaired the arrangements committee.

Tour stops included impressive agribusinesses, interesting historic sites, and outstanding farming operations.

The Lowrys Community Center served as the gathering place for dinner with live entertainment, lunch and an excellent display of antique farm equipment.



Chad Starnes, an official with Circle S Feed Mill near Richburg, discussed the manufacturing of feed at the facility for their poultry farms in South Carolina and North Carolina.



Kevin Taylor (left), an official with the Scotts-Hyponex Company, shows off some of the modern equipment in the plant to **Allen Williams**, Agricultural Education Instructor at Wagener-Salley High School, and **Ricky McDaniel**, a past president of the SC Young Farmer-Agribusiness Association, from Sumter.



Kip Beam (left), Agricultural Education Instructor and Young Farmer-Agribusiness Chapter Advisor in Chester, and **Blake Wisher**, owner and manager of the Chester Livestock Market, join tour participants in the Sales Arena.



John Taylor demonstrates the shaping of Christmas trees on his farm near Lowrys as tour participants look on



Peter Wilson (left) and **JEB Wilson** with their father, **Jeff Wilson**, observing their Agri-tourism enterprise which is a growing part of



JEB Wilson (left) and Peter Wilson display some of their top quality drip-irrigated tomatoes which are among the many items sold at their Farm Market.



Bobby Lee is shown with a 1937 model Allis Chalmers crawler tractor with scraper attached which was one of his many restored tractors and other farm equipment displayed for the enjoyment of the tour participants.



Ronnie Stephenson, owner of Stephenson Dairy Farm, is the only South Carolinian to be named the Outstanding Farmer in the South by the Sunbelt Ag Expo and the *Progressive Farmer* magazine. He discussed the dairy industry as he addressed the tour participants from inside the modern milking parlor used to milk more than 700 cows twice each day.



Joey Wilson of Lowrys operates a successful diversified agribusiness including row crop production, cattle, a feed and seed store, and custom application. He discussed ultra narrow-row cotton production as the tour participants listened with great interest.



The attractive sign marks the entrance to the Stephenson Dairy Farm, the second largest dairy in South Carolina, with over 1450 dairy animals.

Bolin Attends National Agriscience Academy

Carrie C. Bolin, a member of the faculty at Clover High School, Clover, SC, was selected to participate in the National Agriscience Teacher's Ambassador Academy held at DuPont's Chesapeake Farms, Chestertown, Maryland, this summer.

The National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy is a professional development program where agricultural education teachers learn inquiry-based techniques to improve learning. The academy is sponsored by DuPont and supported by Lab-Aids as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Bolin was one of 26 agriscience teachers from 21 states to travel to DuPont's Chesapeake Farms to learn how to incorporate more science into their existing curriculums while making learning more enjoyable and challenging.

Bio-fuels, alternative energy sources, water as a resource and toxicology were reviewed during the week-long session. Field trips to DuPont's Stine Haskell Laboratory, the Delaware Biotechnology Institute in Newark, Delaware, and bio-research tours at the DuPont Experimental Station were included in the training.

Bolin will be one of the teachers from across the nation to take the skills learned at the Academy to the National FFA Convention to help other agriscience teachers learn how to incorporate science more effectively in their teaching.



Raines is President-Elect of Pendleton Farmers Society

Fred Raines, Agricultural Education Instructor at Abbeville High School, has been named president-elect of the historic Pendleton Farmers Society.

Organized in 1815, the Society meets at the Farmers Hall which was constructed on the square in Pendleton in 1828. The oldest farmers hall in continuous use in the nation, it was here that former Society president **Thomas Green Clemson** first discussed plans for establishing a land grant institution which became Clemson University.

Clemson's father-in-law and a former Vice President of the United States, **John C. Calhoun**, also served as president of the Society.

Miles Selected for Membership in Pendleton Farmers Society

Aaron Miles, Agricultural Education Instructor at Latta High School, has been selected for membership in the historic Pendleton Farmers Society.

A graduate of Aynor High School in 2001 where he was active in the FFA, Miles earned a BS Degree in Agricultural Education from Clemson University in 2005. A member of the Alpha Tau Alpha Agriculture Fraternity, he served as secretary of the Clemson University Collegiate FFA Organization and was awarded the Lex McDowell Outstanding Senior in Agricultural Education Award.

Miles, the Outstanding Young Farmer-Agribusiness Chapter Advisor in the Pee Dee Region in 2006, is currently pursuing an MS Degree.

BROWN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Jolie Brown, a member and former officer of the Anderson FFA Chapter, is the recipient of the INDEPENDENT-MAIL 2007 Award of Excellence in Marketing Scholarship. The scholarship, valued at \$1000, was presented to Jolie for being the top business sales person while serving on the RAM yearbook staff for two years.

The INDEPENDENT-MAIL is a daily newspaper published in Anderson, SC, with a readership area including upper South Carolina and northeast Georgia.

Jolie is a freshman at Clemson University. Her FFA Advisor is **Jay Copelan**, Agricultural Education Instructor at Anderson's Hanna-Westside Campus.



Jolie Brown congratulated by her FFA Advisor **Jay Copelan**.

Pelion FFA Truck and Antique Tractor Show

The Pelion FFA Chapter sponsored a successful Truck and Antique Tractor Show on August 11th. The event is held annually in conjunction with the SC Peanut Party and Festival Parade in downtown Pelion, SC.

The first place award in the antique tractor division was a Cockshutt "40" owned by **Charles Horger**. The Runner-up was a 1060 Minneapolis-Moline GVI owned by **Sam Jackson**. The first place award in the truck division went to **Harry Jacobs** who showed a 1953 GMC and the Runner-up award went to **Terry Hutto** who displayed a 1953 Ford.

The Truck and Antique Tractor Show, a very popular event at the SC Peanut Party, is an excellent public relations activity for the FFA chapter.

Frank R. Stover, Jr. is the Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA advisor at Pelion High School.



Saluda FFA Members Awarded Scholarships

Saluda FFA members **Andrew Forest**, **Kayla Rodgers**, **Ashton Berry** and **Hunter Price** were each presented a \$2000 scholarship by the Saluda County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter at the annual Truck and Tractor Pull event held on August 10th.

The scholarships are named in honor of **William Whitfield** who served as the agricultural education instructor and later as principal until his retirement. Mr. Whitfield was instrumental in organizing the first event in 1978 which has provided more than \$100,000 in funds for scholarships.

Amanda Nichols, Agricultural Education Instructor at Saluda High School, serves as advisor to the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.



Amanda Nichols with Saluda FFA President **Josh Nicholson** and State FFA Secretary **Hunter Cooper** of Calhoun Falls at the Saluda Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter Truck and Tractor Pull.

Simpson Competes in Clemson Collegiate FFA Horse Show

Amber Simpson, a junior at Crescent High School and secretary of the FFA chapter, participated in the Clemson University Collegiate FFA Horse Show held at the T. Ed Garrison Livestock Arena this summer. She serves as secretary of the SC High School Rodeo Association.



ALPHA TAU ALPHA Chapter Inducts New Members at Clemson

The Clemson University Kappa Chapter of **Alpha Tau Alpha**, the national honor society for Agricultural Education, inducted 22 new members earlier this year. Seated left to right: **Christina Lucia**, **Kathryn Keller**, **Jennifer Miller**, **Rebekah Simons**, **Jill Jeffords**, **Elizabeth Oliver** and **Nichole Massey**. Standing left to right: **Alana Willingham**, **Chris Hodge**, **Shane Oxendine**, **Aaron Miles**, **Matt Lutton**, **Jimmie Lee Shaw**, **Jacques LeCour**, **Chris Moss**, **Ben Gibson**, **Jennifer Perkins**, **John Duke**, **Ashley Granata**, **Cal Bowie**, **Kerrie Walker** and **Roman Fox**.

Dr. Phil M. Fravel, a member of the Clemson Agricultural Education faculty, serves as chapter advisor.



Southeast Greenhouse Trade Show Featured SC FFA Exhibit

The SC FFA Association had one of the prominent exhibits on display at the 2007 Southeast Greenhouse Conference and Trade Show held at the Carolina First Center in Greenville, SC, this summer.

The conference and trade show is the largest educational event of its kind in the south focused on greenhouse operation and the "color" industry. The educational programs and a 400-booth trade show provides the latest in mechanically advanced equipment and services as well as new varieties and products.

Agricultural Educators **Barry Burdette**, Golden Strip Technology Center; **Brenda Wright**, Blue Ridge High School; **Lisa Johnson**, Pendleton High School; **Genie Archer**, R.D. Anderson Technology Center, **Joan Alexander**, Florence County Technology Center; **Kayla Brown**, President of the Golden Strip Technology Center FFA Chapter, **Chris Corzine**, Associate State Director of Agricultural Education, and **John and Alex Burdette**, assisted **John W. Parris** at the FFA Display.



Barry Burdette (left) with son **Alex** and **Kayla Brown**, Golden Strip Technology Center FFA President

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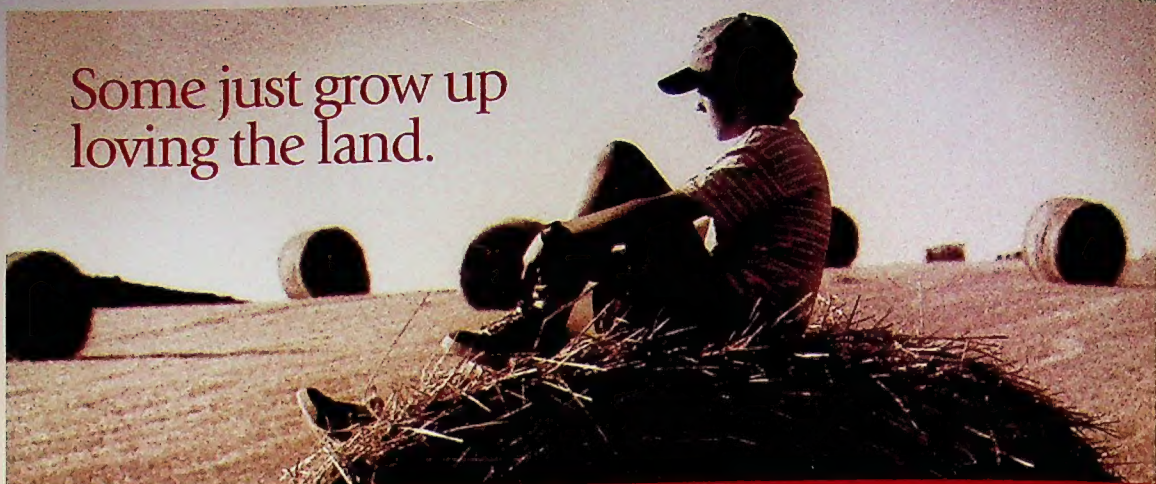
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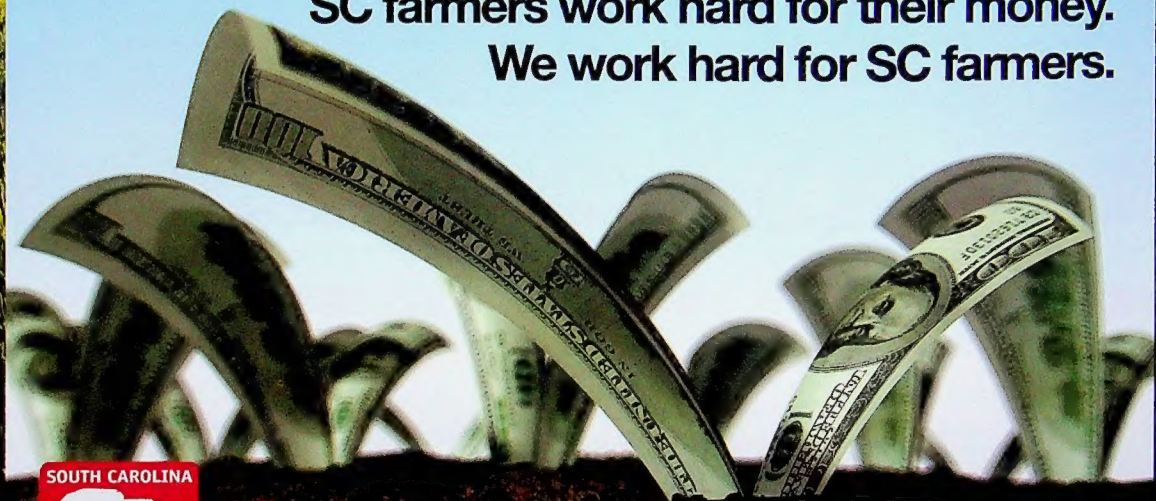
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